

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of June 14, 2006 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claim 20, 44, 49, 51, 54, and 56 have been amended, claims 50, 52, 53, 55, 57, and 58 have been cancelled, and claims 59-64 have been added. Applicants submit that these new claims are fully supported by the specification, and thus introduce no new matter to the application. Claims 20, 40-49, 51, 54, 56, and 59-64 are pending in this application. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

Preliminarily, Applicants note with appreciation the courtesies extended by Examiner Bonshock to the undersigned and Mr. Brisnehan during the telephone interview of July 31, 2006. At least some of the comments below encompass the totality of the issues discussed during the interview, and, as such, provide the substance of the interview in accord with MPEP § 713.04.

Additionally, Applicants note with thanks the indication that the application contains allowable subject matter. Specifically, claims 41, 46, 51, and 56 were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate all the features of the ultimate base claim. As described below, to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 20 and 44 to incorporate subject matter similar to that deemed allowable by the Examiner in claims 41 and 46.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 49-58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The office action alleges that the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for storing properties in “dedicated memory locations.” Office Action, page 2. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have amended independent claims 49 and 54 to better clarify the features of the claimed invention. Without acquiescing in the rejection, since the amended claims no longer recite, “dedicated memory locations” for storing properties, it is believed that the rejections of claims 49-58 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph are therefore moot.

Additionally, Applicants note that independent claims 49 and 54, as amended, are supported by the specification as filed. Claims 49 and 54 have been amended to recite:

assigning by the operating system a first memory location for storing a value of a first enumerated property associated with a first file of a first file type;

storing in the first memory location a value corresponding to the first enumerated property for the first file;

assigning by the operating system a second memory location for storing a value of a second enumerated property associated with a second file of a second file type, wherein said second file type is different from said first file type, and wherein the second enumerated property associated with the second file type is different from the first enumerated property associated with the first file type;

storing in the second memory location a value corresponding to the second enumerated property for the second file;

Support for these recitations can be found, e.g., in FIGS. 6 and 7 of the drawings, and at paragraphs [0035], [0038], [0042], and [0044] of the printed publication of the application (U.S. Patent Appl. Pub. No. 2002/0075312). Claims 49 and 54 are further amended to recite:

retrieving the value corresponding to the first enumerated property for the first file from the first memory location and the value corresponding to the second enumerated property for the second file from the second memory location.

Support for this recitation can be found, e.g., in FIGS. 6 and 7 of the drawings, and at paragraphs [0042]-[0043] of the printed publication. Claim 49 and 54 are further amended to recite:

displaying a graphical representation of the first file concurrently with a graphical representation of the second file, wherein data corresponding to the first enumerated property for the first file is displayed at a location relative to the graphical representation of the first file, and wherein data corresponding to the second enumerated property for the second file is displayed at the same location relative to the graphical representation of the second file.

Support for this recitation can be found, e.g., in FIG. 5 of the drawings, and at paragraph [0035] of the printed publication.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 20, 40, 42-45, 47-50, 52-55, 57, and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Poole, "Mac OS 8.5 Bible" (*Poole*), and Patty and Rick Winter,

“Using Microsoft Office 95 (Second Edition)” (*Winter*). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 20, 40-48, and 59-62

As indicated above, independent claims 20 and 44 have been amended to incorporate subject matter similar to that deemed allowable by the Examiner in claims 41 and 46. Specifically, claims 20 and 44 have been amended to recite, “wherein at least one of the first property and the second property are not user-assignable properties.” In both *Poole* and *Winters*, if a property is user-assignable on one file, then the property at the same relative position will also be user-assignable (e.g., see the “Label” column in Figure 17 of *Poole*). Thus, in *Poole* and *Winters*, as applied by the office action to claim 1, both the first property and the second property would be user-assignable. For this reason, Applicants submit that claims 20, 44, and their respective dependent claims 40-43, 45-48, and 59-62, are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 49, 51, 54, 56, 63, and 64

As indicated above, Applicants have amended independent claims 49 and 54 to better clarify the features of the claimed invention. For example, the features of claim 49, recited above, include, “assigning by the operating system a first memory location for storing a value of a first enumerated property associated with a first file of a first file type,” and “assigning by the operating system a second memory location for storing a value of a second enumerated property associated with a second file of a second file type.” The office action alleges that *Poole* teaches “the OS allowing for user selection of a textual ‘Label’ to associate with item types differentiating [one item from another].” Office Action, page 7. As noted by the Examiner in the interviews of July 31, 2006, and March 8, 2006, the ‘Label’ property might be set to display a file kind value for one file, while being set to display a name/size/etc. value for another file.

However as discussed during the interview, in *Poole*, scenarios in which different properties are displayed at the same relative location for different files are only possible when a user manually sets the values in a single user-assignable property (e.g., ‘Label’) to correspond to different properties for different files. Thus, the scenario in *Poole* relied on by the office action for teaching different properties in the same relative location, is not compatible with “assigning by the operating system a first memory location for storing a value of a first enumerated property associated with a first file of a first file type,” and “assigning by the operating system a second

memory location for storing a value of a second enumerated property associated with a second file of a second file type,” as recited in claim 49. Rather, in *Poole*, the first and second memory locations would be assigned by the operating system for storing values of a single property (e.g., the ‘Label’ property). In other words, when *Poole*’s operating system assigns memory locations for storing values of different properties, these values will always be displayed at different relative locations to their respective files. For this reason, as discussed during the interview, Applicants submit that claim 49, related computer readable media claim 54, and their respective dependent claims 50-51, 56, 63, and 64 are allowable over the cited references.

New Claims

Applicants have added new claims 59-64 to more fully claim their invention. Claims 59 and 61 recite, “wherein the operating system is not configured to store a value corresponding to the first property for any file of the second file type,” and claims 60 and 62 further recite, “wherein the operating system is not configured to store a value corresponding to the second property for any file of the first file type.” Thus, unlike systems in which the operating system is configured to store the same set of properties for each file, these claims refer to systems like those described at paragraph [0035] of the printed publication, in which the operating system stores different properties for files having different file types.

New claims 63 and 64 recite “an assigned registry value” for storing a property value of a file. Support for this recitation can be found, e.g., at paragraphs [0044] of the printed publication. This recitation further distinguishes claims 63 and 64 from systems like *Poole* which use custom properties (e.g., ‘Label’) to store values of different properties.

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Amendment dated September 14, 2006

CONCLUSION

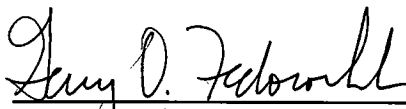
All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicits prompt notification of the same. However, if for any reason the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance or there are any questions, the examiner is encouraged to contact Mr. Brisnehan at (202) 824-3324 or the undersigned at (202) 824-3223.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2006

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